

DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

303

interest. and whatever be urged by the advocates of peace. must augment the resources of the nation which exacts it. This is also the case with tributes and subsidies. and money which is expended by foreign travellers. The Swiss have. indeed. built up their prosperity with the money which has been attracted by the scenery of their land. The wealth which England obtained from her tropical dominions—especially from India and Jamaica—was the stepping-stone to her present riches and commanding commercial position. How many families have been founded. how many noble mansions built. with the profits of indigo. tea and sugar ! From the whole world she levies contributions by her earnings in the ocean carrying trade.

We turn now to the distribution of wealth—to the influences which determine its appropriation by individuals, and result in the distinction between rich and poor. The simplest and most ancient of these influences is force. The criminal classes still employ it. The levy of taxes by State and in many cases. the exaction of rent by a landlord are ultimately secured by force. A community settled upon land which it was the first to colonize. would hardly appreciate the meaning of rent : each cultivator would expect to keep the whole of his produce. But, when

conquered by invaders, they would be
forcibly
taught that the profits of agriculture
leave
something for a landlord to exact; and that,
indeed,
under the rule of force, the cultivator
may
confidently expect to retain only so much
of
produce as will keep him from
starvation. Rents
are now commonly regulated by
competition, by
custom, by kindness, or by law, and
their just